



Welcome to the first issue of the **Naturethon newsletter!**

Here, you will find all the latest Naturethon activities, as well as specific content to improve your knowledge about Nature-based Solutions and their financing. You can use these insights to fuel your group discussion and to look for similar solutions in your community. This first issue is dedicated to **rivers and their restoration**, with inputs from the newly adopted EU **Nature Restoration Law**, specific case studies, and the [Naturethon Digital Library](#).

Enjoy your reading!

Nature-based Solutions and Citizen engagement

Watch back the first Naturethon webinar

NATURETHON

WEBINAR 18.6.24 | 17:00 CEST



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Nature-based Solutions:

Co-benefits and citizen engagement

The inaugural [Naturethon webinar](#), held recently, was an enlightening session designed for Naturethon champions and enthusiasts of **innovative climate adaptation** approaches. The event featured insights from Andrea Staccione (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology) and Alfredo Reder (CMCC). The two experts explored the concept of **Nature-based Solutions** (NbS) and their diverse applications in mitigating climate change and reducing disaster risks. The webinar also highlighted the vital role of **local communities and citizens** in developing shared knowledge and creating a critical mass in their territories for implementing resilient ecosystems.

EU Nature Restoration Law adopted



*In a landmark move for environmental protection, the European Council has recently formally adopted the [Nature Restoration Law](#), placing a strong emphasis on the benefits of **Nature-based Solutions**. This legislation aims to restore degraded ecosystems, improve biodiversity, and enhance the resilience of natural environments across Europe, setting ambitious targets for the restoration of a wide range of ecosystems, including forests, wetlands, grasslands, freshwater, and marine environments.*

Over the past decades, the state of European habitats has progressively deteriorated, with over [80% of natural habitats now degraded](#). To preserve biodiversity and ecosystems, the European Commission set out to implement a Nature Restoration Law. This unprecedented legislation was formally adopted by the European Council in June 2024, with legally binding obligations for the Union and member states, who are required to submit **National Restoration Plans** to achieve the common targets. The law mandates the **restoration** of at least **20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030**, with a long-term goal of achieving a fully restored and resilient natural environment by 2050.

"Today, the Council of the EU is choosing to restore nature in Europe, thereby protecting its biodiversity and the living environment of European citizens. It is our duty to respond to the urgency of the collapse of biodiversity in Europe, but also to enable the European Union to

meet its international commitments," [stated Alain Maron](#), Minister for Climate Transition, Environment, Energy and Participatory Democracy of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region

Riparian ecosystems are addressed in the Nature Restoration Law, given that European rivers and their courses are highly impacted by human infrastructure. Over [one million man-made barriers](#) are in place along European freshwater bodies, several of which are now obsolete. The law aims to ensure **better river connectivity** by facilitating the removal of unused infrastructure.

The law has garnered widespread support from environmental organizations, scientists, and citizens throughout the EU. It underscores the EU's dedication to integrating nature-based solutions into policy frameworks, fostering a harmonious relationship between human activities and the natural world.

Get inspired: NbS for the rivers

NbS to increase river resilience to extreme events

Resilient River or "[ResiRiver](#)", is a European Interreg project focused on creating **Resilient River Systems** through the integration and upscaling of nature-based solutions (NbS) in northwestern Europe (NWE). River systems are facing increasing challenges related to extreme events exacerbated by climate change. Events such as **floods** and **droughts** can severely affect biodiversity and local livelihoods, with impacts across different economic sectors. To mitigate these

Open-air laboratories to study hydro-meteo risks

[OPERANDUM](#) is a European research project that aims to demonstrate the effectiveness of Nature-based Solutions to adapt territories to risks from extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, landslides, and storm surges, making human communities more resilient to climate change. The research consists of several **open-air laboratories**, including the [Elbe River](#), which is regularly affected by flood events. The [case study](#) focuses on flood protection in a protected natural

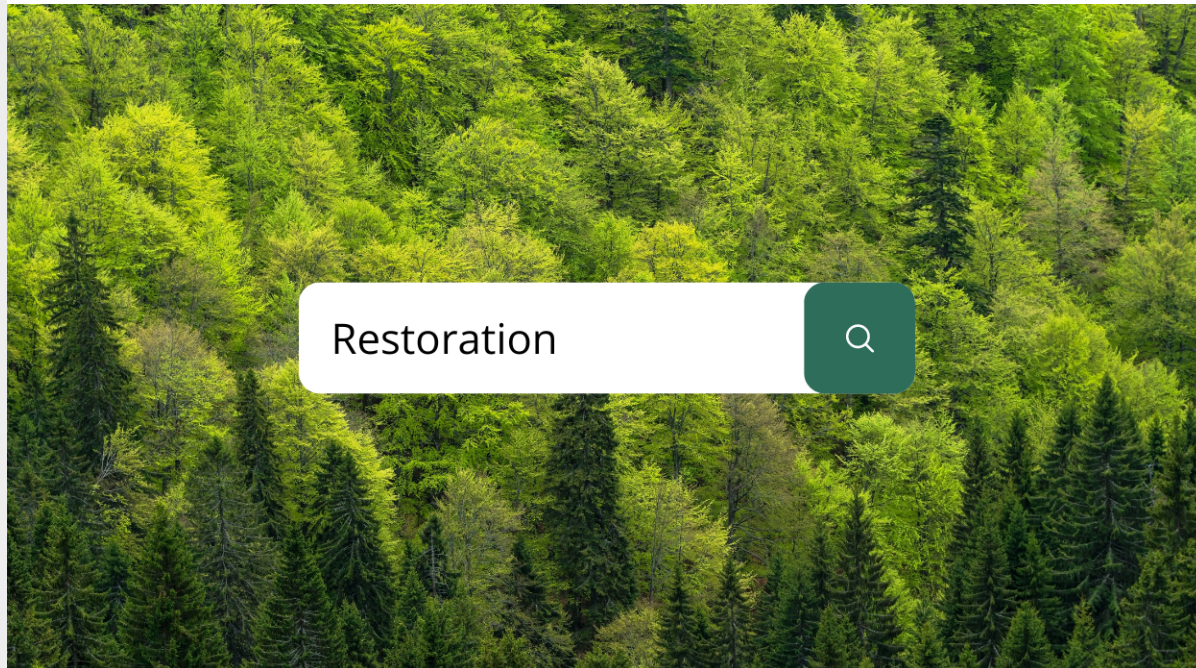
negative effects ResiRiver aims to implement Nature-based Solutions (NbS), embracing a more sustainable approach towards **climate resilience** in the riparian environment.

Find out more

area near Hamburg through the implementation of a river floodplain ecosystem and cooperative floodplain management (CFM).

Find out more

Nature-based Solutions glossary



Learn the meaning of complex Nature-based Solutions and finance jargon to become a **true expert** in leading your team discussions. The [Naturethon Digital Library](#) provides a glossary with insights into the field's main concepts. Discover the latest terms added to enhance your understanding of **NbS in the context of riparian ecosystems** and share your newly gained knowledge with your citizen group.

Explore the glossary



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